

Biographic Sketch

Colonel Edward P. Naessens, Jr

Head of the Department of Physics and Nuclear Engineering

Currently serving as the Team Chief and Senior Advisor of the National Military Academy of Afghanistan



Colonel Edward Naessens graduated from West Point in 1981 and was commissioned a Lieutenant in the Infantry. His education includes a Bachelor of Science degree from West Point, a Master of Science in Physics and a Doctorate in Nuclear Engineering and Science from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. His military education includes Infantry Officer Basic Course, Armor Officer Advanced Course (Distinguished Honor Graduate), Combined Services Staff College, Command and General Staff College, and the Naval War College where he earned a Master's Degree in National Security Strategy.

His early assignments included duties as a rifle platoon leader, scout platoon leader, company executive officer, and Aide de Camp with the 25th Infantry Division at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii from February 1982 to February 1984. He served as a company commander, battalion operations officer, and brigade assistant operations officer with the 9th Infantry Division at Fort Lewis, Washington, from August 1985 to June 1989. Later he served as a battalion executive officer, brigade operations officer, and brigade executive officer with the 10th Mountain Division at Fort Drum, New York, from June 1994 to June 1996.

Operational deployments include serving as the task force operations officer with the Multinational Force & Observers mission in Sinai, Egypt, from March to October 1988. From February to April 2002, he deployed to Bagram, Afghanistan as the Deputy CJ5 for CJTF Mountain in support of Operation ANACONDA. From June to September 2004, COL Naessens deployed to Kabul, Afghanistan as the Chief, Military Academy Implementation Support Team, Office of the Military Cooperation-Afghanistan (OMC-A). In this position he began work with the Afghanistan leadership to build the National Military Academy of Afghanistan (NMAA) modeled after West Point. From May to August 2006, he served as the Deputy Brigade Commander of the 17th FA Brigade in Baghdad, Iraq. He served as the Senior Academic Mentor to the NMAA from August 2008 to June 2009 as part of Coalition Support Transition Command-Afghanistan (CSTC-A) in Kabul, Afghanistan. Currently, from August 2010 to April 2011 he is serving as the Team Chief and Senior Advisor to the NMAA as part of the National Training Mission-Afghanistan (NTM-A).

At West Point, COL Naessens has served as an instructor and Assistant Professor from 1991 to 1994 and as an Academy and Associate Professor from 1999 to 2009. He was selected for Professor of Nuclear Engineering in 2007. In 2009, he was selected as Professor, USMA, and Head of the Department of Physics and Nuclear Engineering where he is presently serving.

Colonel Naessens' awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal (4 OLC), the Army Commendation Medal (10 OLC), the Army Achievement Medal (5 OLC), the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal, the Korean Defense Service Medal, the Multinational Force & Observers Medal, the NATO Medal, the Meritorious Unit Commendation, the Expert Infantry Badge, Airborne and Air Assault wings, and the Ranger Tab.

COL Naessens is married to Marie Errico and has three children Shawn Marie, Edward, and Allison and one grandchild, Aiden.